

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 04082 211036Z

15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAB-01

IO-10 /068 W

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R 210914Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4926

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 4082

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, EG, IS, US

SUBJECT: SYRIAN REACTION TO SINAI AGREEMENT - OCT 19-20

1. BANNER HEADLINES IN OCT. 19 AND OCT. 20 AL-BAATH GIVE GOOD INDICATION UNCOMPROMISING LINE BEING TAKEN IN SYRIAN MEDIA TOWARD SINAI ACCORD. THEY READ, "NEW RESULTS OF SINAI AGREEMENT; THE ENEMY INCREASES HIS THREATS AGAINST SYRIA; MASSES CONTINUE TO DENOUNCE AGREEMENT OF RELAPSE"; AND "INCREASING ARAB DENUNCIATION OF SETBACK AGREEMENT; MASSES DEMAND SUPPORT FOR SYRIA'S POSITION OF PRINCIPLE; AGREEMENT CONCERNS EVERY ARAB AND THERE MUST BE MOVEMENT TO BRING IT DOWN."

2. DOMESTIC

NATIONAL COMMAND CONTINUES TO RECEIVE CABLES OF SUPPORT FOR ITS OPPOSITION TO SINAI AGREEMENT.

3. FOREIGN

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PAGE 02 DAMASC 04082 211036Z

OCT. 19 AL-BAATH REPORTED THAT KUWAIT UNION OF PALESTINIAN ENGINEERS DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING ARAB CONFERENCE TO REPLY TO AGREEMENT.

OCT. 20 TISHRIIN CLAIMED "EGYPTIAN ARMY UNREST FROM CONSEQUENCES OF AGREEMENT AND ITS SECRET ANNEXES." ARTICLE BASED ON AFB AND OTHER DISPATCHES FROM CAIRO NOTED "GENERAL FEELING IN EGYPT THAT EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT DECEIVED EGYPTIAN PEOPLE AND PARTICIPATED IN AGREEMENT THAT WAS IN ISRAEL'S INTEREST." REPORT ADDED THAT "TANGIBLE" OPPOSITION MOVEMENT GROWING AMONG EGYPTIAN YOUTH, LABORERS AND STUDENTS AIMED AT ABROGATING AGREEMENT.

MAIN AL-THAWRAH STORY OCT. 19 REPORTED RENEWED ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY ON WEST BANK "IN ATMOSPHERE FOLLOWING DEFEATIST SINAI AGREEMENT."

AL-BAATH REPORTED CABLES OF SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL COMMAND STATEMENT FROM ARAB STUDENTS IN POLAND.

OCT. 20 AL-BAATH NOTED KUWAITI PRESS ARTICLE CALLING UPON ARAB MASSES TO TOPPLE AGREEMENT.

PLO SPOKESMAN ABU MAYZAR IN KUWAIT ANNOUNCED THAT PALESTINIAN OPPOSITION TO AGREEMENT MUST BE DISTINGUISHED FROM PALESTINIAN RESPECT FOR PAST SACRIFICES OF EGYPTIAN PEOPLE.

PRESS NOTED HAYKAL'S ARTICLE CRITICIZING AGREEMENT ON BASIS THAT IT IGNORED PALESTINIAN ISSUE.

OCT. 20 AL-BAATH PUBLISHED FRONT PAGE SUMMARY OF N.Y. TIMES ARTICLE STATING THAT SYRIA HAD NOT REPLIED TO PRES. FORD'S PROPOSAL MADE ONE MONTH AGO TO MEET WITH PRES. ASAD. ACCORDING TO AL-BAATH, TIMES ARTICLE QUOTED AMERICAN OFFICIALS AS BEING CONVINCED THAT SYRIA WAS NOT INTERESTED IN TALKS WITH ISRAEL THROUGH U.S.  
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PAGE 03 DAMASC 04082 211036Z

### 3. COMMENTARY

AHMAD AL-KHATIB, PRESIDENT OF FEDERAL COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FEDERATION OF ARAB REPUBLICS, IN INTERVIEW WITH AL-BAATH CHARGED THAT SINAI AGREEMENT "CONSTITUTES FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF CONSTITUTION OF FAR." HE ALSO ACCUSED EGYPTIAN "RIGHT WING" OF COLLUDING WITH U.S. TO IMPLEMENT AGREEMENT AND

ABORT GAINS OF JULY 23 REOVLUTION.

OCT. 19 ISSUE OF AL-BAATH CONTAINED INTERVIEW WITH NATIONAL COMMAND MEMBER FADEL AL-ANSARI. IN CONTEXT OF SYRIAN REJECTION OF STEP-BY-STEP POLICY ANSARI REFUTED RUMORS CLAIMING THAT KHADDAM TRIP TO UNGA AIMED AT ARRANGING NEW DISENGAGEMENT ON GOLAN. INSTEAD, "VISIT INTENDED TO FOCUS WORLD ATTENTION ON VOICE OF ARAB REJECTION OF SINAI AGREEMENT. VISIT CONFINED TO THIS END AND HAD NO OTHER AIMS."

AL-BAATH COLUMNIST CLAIMED THAT SADAT'S "SURRENDER" PERMITTED ISRAEL TO SHIFT ITS MILITARY FORCES TO GOLAN. "THESE MOVEMENTS COUPLED WITH MOUNTING TONE OF THREATS FROM TEL AVIV ARE LINKED TO TRAITOROUS AGREEMENT."

4. COMMENT: ANSARI'S REMARKS CONCERNING KHADDAM'S VISIT TO UNGA IMPLY THAT SOME SUSPICION STILL EXISTS REGARDING SARG'S STATEMENTS THAT IT NOT INTERESTED IN SEPARATE GOLAN ACCORD.  
MURPHY

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